

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:49pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith, James McIlroy, and Wes Moore. Others present were: Don Doane, John Hayden, Mark Bouzianis, Reuben Hull, Alison Watts, and Duanne Hyde.

Don Doane asked what the Selectmen expect from the Treasurer in 2007. They expect him to use the new computer system the Town purchased earlier this year. He will be able to access it from home or come into the Town Office. Nancy was asked to set up a meeting with Advanced Data Systems to get Don set up to use the system from his home.

The Budget Advisory Committee met with the Selectmen to review their budget for 2007. They asked if the Town is still paying 100% of the employees Health Insurance. The Selectmen may be looking for employee participation in the cost of their insurance. This is a huge expense for the Town and there is no benefit to employees taking Health Insurance through the Town and also taking coverage through their spouse.

Dispatch was also discussed. The Committee asked the Selectmen if Newmarket and Stratham will penalize Newfields for using Rockingham Dispatch instead of Newmarket Dispatch. They were advised that the Towns will still back each other up and that Dispatch is a separate entity from the Fire and Police Departments. The cost to change over to Rockingham Dispatch is needed from the Fire, Police, and Emergency Management Departments.

Wes advised that the Solid Waste Disposal fee will be increasing approximately fifteen percent. It was agreed to keep \$600. in the budget for pest control as this is the permit fee. The Health Agency requests will be reviewed in the next week or so. The Parks and Recreation line will be reviewed again.

The Budget Advisory Committee will meet with the Selectmen again on November 14, 2006.

Janet spoke with Chief Reed last Friday and told him that the Board is leaning towards changing the Dispatch service to Rockingham Dispatch. Wes stated that he will speak with Chief Reed tomorrow to let him know the final decision has not been made, but that the actual costs to change over to Rockingham Dispatch for fire, police, and emergency management are needed.

The Department of Safety contract to accept new radios was not signed by the Selectmen. The radios are not needed as Janet discussed with Chief Reed last week.

Brian Hart attended the meeting to update the Selectmen on the progress of the Cole Property easements and to see if they had any questions. The Wildlife Easement requires the Town to do the monitoring. The Land Trust will write and update the management plan. They are trying to incorporate this parcel into the management plan for the Piscassic Greenway plan.

Fran Lane wrote the metes and bounds which will be incorporated into the easement.

The closing will be at the Registry of Deeds in Newfields. Brian stated that the Selectmen could sign the paperwork in advance and have the Town Counsel insert the signature pages at the closing.

The Title Insurance for this property will be paid out of the Conservation Commission funds. Brian needs to have the funds wired to the closing agency on Wednesday, November 8, 2006.

James made a motion authorizing Don Doane to wire up to \$58,000. to the closing agent for the Cole property on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 provided the public votes to approve spending the funds at the Conservation Hearing on November 7, 2006. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Alison Watts and Duanne Hyde spoke about the Town co-partnering with the Nature Conservancy on conservation easements. The Nature Conservancy has expended all of their NAWCA funds, but did not meet the acreage requirements for those funds. They are looking for a Newfields donation (specifically on the Anderson and Daly tracts) to meet the acreage requirements. A Notice of Agreement would need to be signed, but a copy of the actual agreement was not provided to the Selectmen for their review. This Agreement could take away the Town's rights in the future on the Easements.

Wes asked if the Nature Conservancy has a time frame in mind. Duanne said the sooner, the better but they could wait until March for a Town vote if that is necessary. The Selectmen and Town Counsel feel that this issue should be on the ballot in March for a Town-wide vote.

Alison stated that the Conservation Commission feels this is a good thing to do as it adds another layer of protection to the Easements. James stated that the Town paid full market price for these Conservation Easements – the land was not donated. He feels that the Town is giving up their rights and not receiving anything in return. Alison wants the Town to support the Nature Conservancy so that they will support the Town in future transactions. (The Nature Conservancy is working on a project to conserve land on the river in Newfields.)

Wes will speak with Town Counsel for his opinion on this issue. Duanne said he will forward the actual documents to the Selectmen via e-mail. He also stated

that the Nature Conservancy would pay any legal fees involved in the transaction.

According to Alison, the Prime Wetlands Presentation will be in two weeks. It will be presented to the Conservation Commission who will decide which areas should be included and then give the plan to the Selectmen for review. This adds “an extra layer of protection on protected wetlands”. The Conservation Commission decides the setbacks on prime wetlands. Once a wetland is declared prime, the State takes control of what can and cannot be done on the land. Alison will speak with other towns to see how this plan was accepted by the residents.

Alison will put together a warrant article for the Town’s vote. She will give a presentation to the Selectmen in November so they may decide whether or not to support the warrant article. Alison would like to have the first public hearing in December.

Reuben Hull told the Selectmen that he has nothing new to report. He is still waiting for the ADA representative to look at the new design for the handicapped ramp and approve it.

The letter to the property owner of a potential junk yard was not signed. It should be ready for signatures at the next Selectmen’s Meeting.

The application for Current Use which was previously denied was approved tonight. The additional information required to make a decision (a map) was included with the application.

The Memo of Understanding from the Town of Lee was not signed by the Selectmen. They wish to review this with Chief Reed.

The letter from former Newfields Police Officer Brett Wells was read. The Selectmen asked Nancy to have Chief Reed attend the next Selectmen’s Meeting to discuss this matter.

Correspondence from Joseph Randazza, Patricia Earls, and Cheryl Coviello regarding issues they have with their builder was reviewed. The Selectmen need to discuss this or receive a memo from the Building Inspector that he performed the necessary inspections and approved the work that he inspected.

Town Counsel correspondence was reviewed.

The contract with Civil Design was reviewed.

The Selectmen asked Nancy for an update on the issue with Bestway Disposal picking up trash from commercial businesses (Bestway is contracted for residential trash pick up only). Nancy reported that she has spoken with representatives from Bestway and they are looking into the matter. They hope to have an answer for her this week.

James made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2006 meeting as amended. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The Selectmen will meet after they close the polls. They offered the use of the Selectmen's Office to the Budget Advisory Committee who cannot meet in the Town Hall due to elections and a Conservation Commission hearing.

Janet and James will make arrangements to sign checks during the day next Tuesday.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05pm. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer